

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 08729 151710Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 L-03 /027 W
-----046097 151715Z /50

O R 151015Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 9510

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JIDDA FOR HOLLIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, YUS, NI
SUBJECT: NUSTED

REF: (A) STATE 175475, (B) STATE175898

1. EMBASSY HAS MADE CONSISTENT EFFORTS FOR MONTHS TO INTEREST FMG IN NUSTED AND TO OBTAIN SOME FORM OF COMMITMENT FOR JOINT SPONSORSHIP. AS WE SAW MERIT IN THE NUSTED CONCEPT WHEN IT WAS FIRST PROPOSED, WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO ELICIT A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE FMG.

2. MEA HAS AVOIDED ANY DEFINITIVE COMMENT ON NUSTED. ITS REPLY TO OUR NOTE AND NUMEROUS ORAL ENTREATIES HAS BEEN A NONCOMMittal STATEMENT THAT THE MINISTRY HAS THE MATTER "UNDER CONSIDERATION." IN RESPONSE TO INFORMAL FURTHER PROBING, THE MINISTRY CONFIDED THAT IT CAN DO LITTLE TO BRING THE SEMINAR ABOUT.

3. WE THEN TOOK THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF THE CABINET, THUS BRINGING THE ISSUE AS CLOSE AS FEASIBLE TO THE HEAD OF STATE. THE PERMSEC WOULD MAKE NO DECISION BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY WRITE A LETTER TO THE PERMSEC OF FINANCE FORMALLy

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REQUESTING A CONTACT OFFICER OR GROUP WHO WOULD SERVE AS THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY FOR THE NIGERIAN SIDE. OUR LETTER WAS DELIVERED ON JUNE 15.

4. ON JULY 14 WE RECEIVED AN ANSWERING LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF FINANCE DATED JULY 5 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE I AM DIRECTED TO REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 15TH JUNE, 1978 ON THE ABOVE

SUBJECT AND SAY THAT THE PROPOSED NUSTED IS RATHER EARLY. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE WERE COVERED EXTENSIVELY AT THE BILATERAL WORKING GROUP SESSIONS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS FROM NIGERIA AND USA IN NOVEMBER, 1977 AND APRIL, 1978. NUSTED MAY BE ACCOMMODATED EVENTUALLY BUT THE IMMEDIATE NEED WOULD APPEAR TO BE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE DECISIONS REACHED AT THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS. UNQUOTE.

5. EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS WITH SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE MESSAGE. IF PERTINENT FACTORS FAVOR A NUSTED CONFERENCE AT SOME FUTURE DATE, WE CAN RAISE CONCEPT AGAIN.

6. GIVEN SITUATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOLLIS VISIT TO LAGOS (REF B) NECESSARY. ECON COUNSELOR PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON O/A AUGUST 2 AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CONFERRING WITH HOLLIS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. SUPPORTIVE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE RETURNED TO LONDON.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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